

before the eruption, the Forest Service estimated more than half a million people visited the Mount St. Helens/Spirit Lake area. Few people at the time realized or could have predicted the awesome, majestic, primal and dreadful power that the eruption would soon provide.

After the eruption of 1980, in 1982 the U.S. Congress created the 110,000 acre National Volcanic Monument to serve as a center for research, education and recreation. Inside the Mount St. Helens monument, the environment is left to respond naturally to the disturbance brought about by the eruption.

Now, 20 years later, the land around the mountain is slowly healing itself. Nature is covering the scars of the eruption and the native plants and animals are beginning to thrive again. Mount St. Helens is now a place where tens of thousands of visitors flock every year from across the country and from around the world to witness both the destructive power and the healing power of nature. Local residents and businesses in Clark, Skamania, Lewis and Cowlitz Counties are all present and available for visitors to enjoy this wonderful facility, and they have really responded well and transformed this region to celebrate what is now, as I mentioned earlier, a treasure.

People often ask me, what did we learn from the eruption of Mount St. Helens? Clearly, we have learned many scientific things, but I also think the eruption of Mount St. Helens has taught us two lessons that humankind too often forgets, the lessons of humility and of cooperation.

No one that remembers the sight of 400 million tons of earth and rock being thrown into the sky can fail to understand man's small place in the universe, and everyone who visits Mount St. Helens Monument today soon realizes the level of dedication, hard work and cooperation it has taken to rebuild the area and the communities.

Much of our State's growth and history, from its early exploration and settlement to the construction of the northern railroad and the massive hydroelectric system, to the creation of the national monument built on the blast site of volcanoes, are the result of a farsighted, courageous and cooperative thinking and working people.

Citizens of the Pacific Northwest, who, in the words of Captain George Vancouver, "Attempt to enrich nature by the industry of man," have set aside their differences and joined forces to make our region one of the most beautiful and welcoming places in America. I am confident that those who visit Mount St. Helens this year and all of those who visit the mountain in the next 20 years will make even greater strides in reawakening the beauty of Mount St. Helens, and will make Washington State an even greater place to live, work and visit.

I invite people from throughout this country to come see what is an amazing geological marvel. You will find

friendly, helpful local natives, willing to assist you, to make sure your visit is pleasurable and enjoyable, and you will see one of the most incredible sites in North America, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### CONDEMNING THE ACTIONS OF IRAN REGARDING THIRTEEN JEWISH CITIZENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, before I speak about what I want to speak about, listening to my colleague talk about 20 years to the day of the eruption of Mount St. Helens, that was May 18, 1980, and people are always amazed when they mention Mount St. Helens, and I say, "Oh, yes, that was May 18, 1980," and they cannot understand how I can remember the exact date. I was married on May 18, 1980, so today is the 20th anniversary of my marriage.

I do not know if there is some kind of lesson there, but I am glad the gentleman spoke about it, because it has been a good 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the plight of 13 Iranian Jews who are on trial in Iran in a phony trial, in a show trial, in a disgraceful trial. These people are charged with supposedly spying for the United States and Israel, and were arrested on Passover of 1999. They have been imprisoned for a year without legal representation, and they are denied the right to choose their lawyer. Their trials are going on now.

Mr. Speaker, Iran must know that it cannot hope to normalize relations with the United States, certainly, and with most of the world, as long as these phony show trials are going on. These 13 people are innocent, even though some of them have been forced to supposedly confess. The trials are closed. No one is permitted to observe, not the diplomatic community, not the Jewish community, not human rights activists, and they are being tried in revolutionary courts which are not under the control of the reformist-minded President, Khatami. In fact, it is quite apparent that these 13 Iranian Jews are pawns, pawns in a power struggle between hard-liners and moderates in Iran. Unfortunately, these people are pawns, and no one knows how this trial, this staged trial, will turn out.

We have a resolution in this House, H. Con. Res. 307, sponsored by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Connecticut

(Mr. GEJDENSON), and this House would do well to pass it very quickly, condemning these trials and exposing them for what they are.

Today, unfortunately, the World Bank loaned Iran \$232 million. Our government, the President and Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, rightfully said this was not the thing to do at the very time that these show trials are going on, and shame on the World Bank for doing this.

I think that Iran ought to understand that there is a price to pay for what they are doing, and only if the world community expresses outrage, only if we in the United States keep the focus on this trial, then perhaps, and only perhaps, these 13 innocent Iranian Jews who are being used as pawns will be ultimately set free.

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So I think it is very, very important that we in the Congress keep the focus on this trial; that we not allow Iran to continue this sham, and that they understand again that there is a price to pay for doing these kinds of phony trials.

Jews have lived in Iran for 2,700 years. In 1979, before the so-called Iranian revolution, there were 80,000 Jews in Iran. Today there are anywhere from 25,000 to 30,000. Seventeen Jews have been executed since 1979, and the community is very much threatened. They are allowed to travel somewhat, but not allowed to travel to Israel.

So I think it is, again, very appropriate at this time that we continue to focus on this trial; that we not rest until these innocent people are set free and that the world community collectively let Iran know that there is a price to pay and there will be a price to pay if these people are harmed.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY AND RETIREMENT FOR WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, what I want to do tonight is take a little bit of time to talk about, I think, an issue that is so critically important and vital to women in the United States, and that is Social Security reform.

There is a very, very important debate that is going on about the future of Social Security right now, and I think it is important that women are included in this discussion. All of America's seniors have a stake in the conversation and the debate and the discourse about Social Security, but women have the biggest stake of all in the future of the program. We need to make sure that we undertake the right kind of Social Security reform for America's women.

Since 1935, America's women have been able to count on the guaranteed